

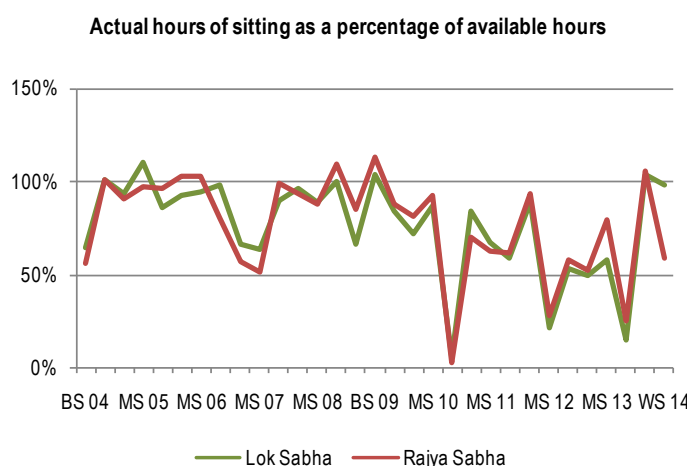
Vital Stats

Parliament in Winter Session 2014

During this winter session, the Lok Sabha functioned smoothly while the Rajya Sabha lost significant time to disruptions over issues related to religious conversions and the arrest of a state minister by the CBI. While some legislative business was transacted during the session, both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha discussed various issues. These related to black money, natural calamities, India's stand at the WTO, MNREGA etc.

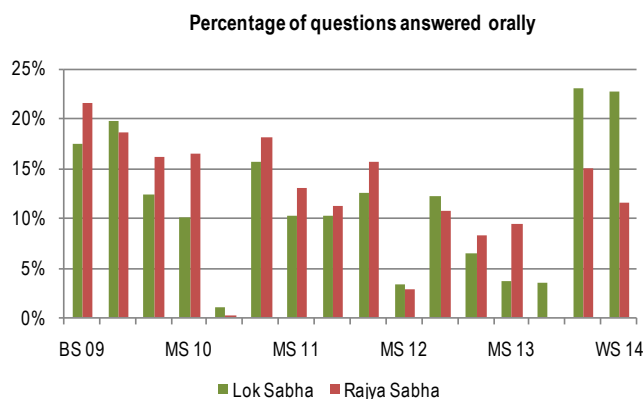
We analyse the functioning of Parliament during this session and compare it with previous sessions.

Lok Sabha worked for 98% of the time while Rajya Sabha lost time to disruptions



- During this session, Lok Sabha worked for 98 % of its scheduled time. 44% of its productive time was spent on discussing various issues, 35% on legislation and 14% on answering questions.
- Rajya Sabha decided to extend its sitting time by an hour every day to provide more time to MPs to raise matters in the House.
- However, Rajya Sabha worked for only 59% of its scheduled time. Rajya Sabha spent 34% on discussing issues, 33% on legislation and 8% on answering questions.

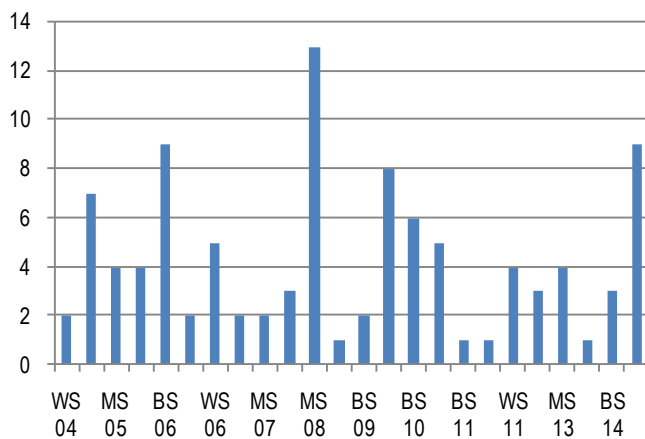
Question Hour was more productive in Lok Sabha than Rajya Sabha



- In Lok Sabha, 23% of scheduled questions were answered orally. This is amongst the highest percentage of questions answered during a session, since 2004.
- To ensure smooth functioning of Question Hour, the time of Question Hour was moved in the Rajya Sabha to 12 noon. However, only 12% of the scheduled questions were answered orally in Rajya Sabha.
- Question Hour in Rajya Sabha lasted for less than 3 minutes each day, for 15 of the 22 days.
- About 100 questions were orally answered in Lok Sabha as compared to 44 in Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha spent 45 hours and Rajya Sabha 25 hours on discussing Bills

Bills introduced and passed during the same session



Note: Appropriation Bills and Bills replacing Ordinances are not included

- 11 Bills were passed by both Houses during this session. These included three Bills related to higher education and two Bills addressing labour laws.
- 15 Bills were introduced during the session. Of these 11 Bills were passed in Lok Sabha without being referred to a Standing Committee for detailed examination.
- Two of the 11 Bills passed in Lok Sabha i.e. Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014 and Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2014 were referred to Select Committees of Rajya Sabha on the last day of the session.
- Bills introduced during the session relate to citizenship, goods and services tax, electricity, anti-hijacking, Lokpal and Lokayuktas laws.
- 68 Private Members' Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha and 31 in Rajya Sabha. Both Houses discussed 3 Private Members' Bills each.

Lok Sabha spent 44% of its time discussing issues; while Rajya Sabha spent 34%

Topic of Debate	House	Hours	MPs
Need to expedite the process of bringing back black money stashed abroad	LS	06:30	30
Natural calamities in various parts of the country	LS	07:34	48
Reported dilution of MNREGS	LS	04:55	32
Situation arising due to the reported incidents of religious conversion	LS	03:22	23
Prevailing agrarian crisis in the country	RS	04:59	23
Discussion on money held in foreign bank accounts by Indian citizens and business entities in violation of law	RS	03:19	14
Clarification on statement by Nirmala Sitharaman on 'India's Stand in WTO'	RS	01:59	12
Clarification on statement by Rajnath Singh on "Incident of sexual assault on a woman by a cab driver in Delhi"	RS	00:45	18
Reported dilution of MNREGS	RS	02:27	21

- A major portion of the time in Lok Sabha was spent on discussing issues related to black money and natural calamities in various parts of the country.
- Issues related to black money and the agrarian crisis were discussed in Rajya Sabha.
- A Private Member's Resolution related to recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission was discussed for about 4 hours in the Lok Sabha.
- Rajya Sabha spent around 3 hours in discussing resolutions related to suspension of farmers' debt recovery proceedings in Vidarbha and making Tamil as the official language of the Madras High Court.

Notes:

- This analysis is based on detailed data obtained from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites.

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